



## A Holiday Gamble

*Jane Feather*

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**A Holiday Gamble** Jane Feather

**A viscount stranded on a stormy night. The beautiful heiress who takes him in. Warm up with this delightfully romantic short story set in Regency-era England, from *New York Times* bestselling author Jane Feather!**

Edward Vasey, otherwise known as Viscount Allenton, is journeying precariously through a snowstorm one night when his coach is overtaken by highwaymen. Robbed and stranded, Edward takes refuge at Selby Hall, where he meets a spirited beauty who may steal something more—his heart. As passion flares between them, Edward uncovers a shocking secret that threatens to tear them apart...but will this be enough to chill their steamy love on a cold winter's eve?

## A Holiday Gamble Details

Date : Published November 17th 2014 by Pocket Star (first published November 3rd 2014)

ISBN : 9781476779522

Author : Jane Feather

Format : ebook 100 pages

Genre : Romance, Holiday, Christmas, Historical, Historical Fiction, Regency, Novella

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# From Reader Review A Holiday Gamble for online ebook

## Cruth says

*My copy was provided by the publisher via NetGalley for an honest review.*

**Author:** Jane Feather

**First published:** 2008 in anthology Snowy Night with a Stranger.

**Length:** 1720 kindle locations, 9 chapters.

**Setting:** Northumberland, Regency-era.

**Sex:** Explicit.

**Hero:** Younger son, black sheep, returning from India to take on Viscountcy.

**Heroine:** Orphaned and left as ward of unfeeling cousin.

An interesting story but a rapid, unrealistic ending. Enjoyable with a limited Christmas-y feel.

Not a lot to say I'm afraid. Not the typical fair. I can see how it would have suited an anthology (as originally published) where author's get the privilege of playing with a loose concept but as a standalone it struggles.

### References:

Author on w'pedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane\\_Fea...](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jane_Fea...)

(ISBN 978-1-4767-7952-2)

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## Kiltsandwords says

This story opens with Ned stopped in the snow on his way home to claim the Viscount title at his Northumberland Estates after being in India for years. He ends up accepting hospitality from a neighbour, Selby after being set upon by reivers. He has no idea that he has walked into the strangest and nefarious house party for the holidays. Selby is not what he appears and the guests at the party were terrible. The plot involving Selby and Godfrey was interesting, but you felt like Ned was trapped in a house of horrors. The only shining light is Lady Georgie, a young lady engaged to the dreadful Godfrey. Ned and Georgie get to know one another and since it's a novella, things move quickly. Ned realizes that he wants Georgie and she wants very much to get away from the house party and the plans Selby has for her. Thanks to Georgie's quick thinking and plans, Ned is part of her plans. It's such a relief when Selby and Godfrey are undermined, but the story ends so abruptly that it's left to the readers imagination about what will happen next.

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## Arlena says

Title: A Holiday Gamble

Author: Jane Feather

Publisher: Pocket Books

Reviewed By: Arlena Dean

Rating: 4

Review:

"A Holiday Gamble" by Jane Feather

Book Description.....

"A viscount stranded on a stormy night. The beautiful heiress who takes him in. Warm up with this delightfully romantic short story set in Regency-era England, from New York Times bestselling author Jane Feather!

Edward Vasey, otherwise known as Viscount Allenton, is journeying precariously through a snowstorm one night when his coach is overtaken by highwaymen. Robbed and stranded, Edward takes refuge at Selby Hall, where he meets a spirited beauty who may steal something more—his heart. As passion flares between them, Edward uncovers a shocking secret that threatens to tear them apart...but will this be enough to chill their steamy love on a cold winter's eve?"

What I liked about this novel.....

A story that was a unique novella and I enjoyed it. We find the Viscount (Ned) Edward Vasey is on his way home due to the death of his brother after being gone for a long time. This was during the Christmas holidays and while on his way home not only was there bad weather but he was robbed. Not being able to get to his destination and he ends up at Selby home and this turns out to be one of the strangest house parties ever with a lots of strange folks. While there he meets Lady Georgie who was engaged to a Godfrey and we will find she is very unhappy about this situation. Why is that? Then this story really takes off. I liked how this author was able to keep my interest in this quick read. This is where I will say you must pick up the good read to see how this author presents it all to the reader. I loved the quick ending...so many times I find the author will go on and on. I loved how the author cut it short and gave us a good quick ending. No, we may not know what all happened but we know in the end Lady Georgie got a ...well again I will stop and say you will have to read it for yourself and come to your own conclusion of just what all you may think happened between Roger and Godfrey after they found out....? Would I recommend as a good read? YES!

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### **namericanwordcat says**

The book opens well. Ned is an interesting hero. However, as the book progresses he gets less interesting. I mean the aspects of his backstory that make him interesting real fail to make any sort of appearance in the actions of his character. The heroine and her troubles were rather predicable. This isn't a bad read in anyway but it did not engage me.

I was give this book for my honest review. So, there you have it.

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### **Britomarte Van Horn says**

I loved the buildup, but the payoff wasn't there. I was waiting for a confrontation, and then it just... ended.

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### **Angel Hatfield says**

Edward/Ned is Count Allentown and traveling during a snowstorm when his coach is robbed. Edward is stranded and goes to Silby Hall. He meets Lady Georgie who is engaged to Godfrey and is not happy with the engagement. Ned had been in India for ten years and was on his way home as his older brother had been in a riding accident and passed away. Georgie was Silby's ward and being forced into the engagement. Ned is fascinated with Georgie.

I can't say I enjoyed this novella. First off the Christmas party seems close to being an orgy. I didn't like the characters at the party they did seem horrible. I did like Georgie and Ned for the most part. Also the story just ends too quickly and unrealistically. I just didn't enjoy this story.

I received an ARC of this story for an honest review.

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### **Melanie says**

This is a short story that was originally published in 'Snowy Night with a Stranger' anthology which I never read before so I'm glad that these authors decided to publish their stories separately.

This is such a great short novella for all of you bookworms that have never read this author. I love all of her books and highly recommend you read her stories.

In this story we have an awesome hero that is back in England after a long absence while our heroine is in a predicament of sorts.

Ms. Feather manages to fill this short story with some mystery, quick pace and an entertaining plot, while still giving us a great characterization of our hero and heroine. If you like your hero and heroine sharp and witty, strong in their convictions and both very likable to boot, then this story's for you.

Melanie for b2b

Complimentary copy provided by the publisher

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### **Farrah says**

A Holiday Gamble was a nice holiday romance novella. It was sweet, with a few secrets and schemes along the way. I enjoyed reading and I thought it was a lovely book.

Georgie and Ned were both good character. Both were clever and determined to find a way to be together. I thought they were both likable.

The romance was sweet, if a little rushed. But, I did think that Georgie and Ned were great together.

The plot moved quickly and kept me interested. I thought the story was nice and the ending was great.

A Holiday Gamble was an enjoyable historical/holiday romance novella. It was a sweet read and I liked it. Romance lovers, if you want a quick holiday read, then you might want to look this book up.

\*I received a complimentary copy from the publisher in exchange for an honest review

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### **Alison says**

It's been awhile since I have read a novel by Jane Feather. And I forgot how much I liked her! And while this one was considerably shorter than most her books it's was a quick holiday read, which I am partial to at this time of year. There's something about Christmas romances.

As with most Regency romances, there was a black sheep, icky guardian, young heiress etc. but they were enough variables to make this story enjoyable and hold my interest.

I liked both main characters and did not like several of the supporting characters (believe me when I say they were truly unlikable). I especially liked getting to know the "real" Georgie someone she had needed to hide.

This was a quick read (with a quick resolution to their "problems" and may have moved too quick for some readers) but it was a light holiday romp with engaging characters.

Netgalley ARC

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### **Marti says**

Jane Feather's newest novella, A Holiday Gamble is a well-written story that follows a beleaguered viscount coming home after 10 years being in India, a huge snowstorm, and an heiress who is trapped. Roll them all up and add a festive Christmas house party with questionable characters and you have this new novella. What is lacked in length is more than made up in depth of feeling. You find yourself cheering for Lady Georgie and Ned. The house of horrors that they are trapped in requires an escape and both of them need each other to accomplish that. It is a fun novella and a different type of historical romance. Enjoyed reading Jane Feather's newest story.

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### **Angela says**

Even though Ned and Georgiana are friendly and comfortable with each other, this story lacks attraction and chemistry. As far as the romance goes, it can be summed up with: they meet, they talk, they have sex, suddenly they declare love for one another, they ride off in the snowy sunrise.

The other characters were compelling, and could have added so much more depth. Belton and Selby were rotten to the core, but so many questions are left unanswered. Who is Belton, and where did he come from? What's Selby's history? Why does Georgiana practically starve herself at dinner? And who taught her to pick locks and the slight of hand tricks?

It had the making for a really good tale, but fell spectacularly short of its mark.

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## **Zili says**

3 - 3.5 Stars in my Sky!

A Holiday Gamble is short, cute and made me laugh. I love historical fiction but combining it with a Christmas theme is always going to make me smile.

Edward Vasey, the new Viscount Allenton aka Ned is on his way to his childhood home when he finds himself at the mercy of the weather and the somewhat sinister Selby. The notion of turning up unannounced to stay at a strangers house always makes me smile - can you imagine if anybody tried it nowadays? Anyway...

Also present is Lady Georgiana 'Georgie' who is trapped by Selby's whim and doesn't seem to be interested in Selby and Godfrey's strange parties and plots. At one point I did think I'd misread the blurb and that the book was going to take a horror/Gothic twist but Jane Feather instead focuses on the potential romance, the Christmas setting and the regency intrigues.

The pacing is fairly quick, but then this is a novella and I was thankful we weren't faced with insta-love (my least favorite thing in a book). There is attraction but Ned is initially more focused on leaving and his new responsibilities... The ending is quite abrupt but it made a nice change from the often long drawn out sunshine and rainbows epilogues we are often faced with.

I received a copy from the publisher (via NetGalley) in exchange for an honest review!

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## **Dorine says**

**Rated 3.5 out of 5. Also posted at TBR Mountain Range with other Regency romance reviews.**

An unexpected guest arrives at a regency house party in a blizzard and meets the woman he can't wait to marry, if he can get her away from her betrothed and her guardian in time.

Edward "Ned" Vasey, Viscount Allenton, is anxious to arrive where he is expected, but a snowstorm forces him to seek shelter elsewhere in Northumberland unannounced. Having spent the last ten years in India making his fortune as the black sheep of the family, he is returning to his childhood home with great misgivings as the only living heir after his elder brother dies in a riding accident. Ned has resigned himself to making good on a promise to marry his neighbor, Sarah Hartley, who he believes has waited for him since he was sent off to India as punishment for his misdeed.

Viscount Allenton is greeted by Lord Selby and given shelter amongst other guests being entertained for the holiday. This household is filled with about twenty unsavory miscreants, except for Selby's mysterious ward and cousin, Lady Georgiana "Georgie" Carey. After her parents' death, Georgiana was cared for by her aunt until she died and Georgiana became Selby's ward. Also in attendance is Godfrey Belton, Georgiana's

obnoxious betrothed.

As Ned socializes with the guests, forced by the weather to stay at the house party for several days, he realizes something is amiss with Georgie and he's certain it has something to do with what has been rumored as Lord Selby's not-so-admirable pursuits. Viscount Allenton is intrigued with Georgie, not just for her beauty but also her mind. It doesn't take him long to realize that Georgie is most uncomfortable in this household and even more so around her fiancé.

My favorite regencies are those that feature a house party. Initially, I was pulled right into this story. Viscount Allenton is a keen observer and his insights add flare to this story. His mannerisms and curious nature really made the story come alive for me. The layered mystery and subtle dishonesty of the party guests reminded me of the atmosphere of a good pirate adventure or a gothic romance. I love that eerie, what's going to happen next, feeling in a story where the house seems to be a living, breathing character with hidden storage compartments and secret passageways, as well as boasting interesting servants who add to the intrigue.

In the end, I'm not sure how I feel about this short story. I really enjoyed most of it but the end was anticlimactic and it didn't meet my expectations. I anticipated something more sinister to add to the mystery, as well as ramp up this couple's conflict, so when that didn't happen, it seemed as if the end came too soon and too easy. The tension built was excellent but I needed a bit more at the end. That said, I feel that the imagery was first-rate and I enjoyed the pacing very much up until the last few pages. Isn't that the case with well-written short stories sometimes, though? We're left wanting more because we've become emotionally invested and feel that we don't have enough time with the characters. This being my first taste of Jane Feather's storytelling skills, I'm intrigued, and look forward to reading a full size novel in the future.

**Reviewed by Dorine, courtesy of Romance Junkies. ebook provided by NetGalley.**

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### **Sylvia says**

Edward Vasey, Viscount Allenton gets robbed and struck in the middle of the night during a snow storm. He travels to the nearest household and asks for shelter. Lord Selby is hosting a unusual house party with his ward, Lady Georgiana "Georgie" Carey. Lady Georgie is engaged to a Godfrey, but she is not happy about it. Her guardian, Lord Selby is forcing the betrothed. She has to find the original copy of the will of her parents so she can leave. Edward is intrigued and wants Lady Georgie for himself. It was a cute and funny story. I received a complimentary copy from the publisher thru NetGalley for an honest review.

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### **Lady Day says**

I felt no holiday spirit in the story. What I felt was a vexing spirit. I did not like the hero or the heroine. To be honest, I don't think I like the secondary characters as well.

The story mechanics clearly display the artist skills. For me, the storyline was boring and the characters appeared deceitful.

Edward Vasey, newly titled Viscount Allenton, is on his way home after living in India when he's caught in a



Christmas Eve snowstorm. He's forced to take shelter at Shelby Hall a neighboring estate. When he arrived, he found the Earl, Roger Shelby hosting a Christmas party. To keep the guest entertained during the storm, the Earl suggest playing cards and other games. Hence the name of the novel. Lady Georgiana Carey, the heroine also reside at the estate.

It felt, I was at a single man's house party...it's getting out of control and I want to go home...but can't. Also, I hate when a character's actions and thought processes are not age appropriate. I read many reviews that stated the book was entertaining. My opinion differs, a Christmas party close to being an orgy is not entertaining. Even the hero in the story began to notice the shady behavior of the other party members.

If you're looking for a Christmas story where the people are happy and families are gathering together then do not read this story.

2 stars: which means I struggled to complete the story.

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